United Nations A/53/403

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 September 1998
English
Original: French

Fifty-third session
Agenda items 45 and 147

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Letter dated 15 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Afghanistan/the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued on 11 September 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Ernst **Sucharipa**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

98-27451 (E) 180998 180998

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Afghanistan/the Islamic Republic of Iran issued on 11 September 1998 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union has learned with dismay of the killing of Iranian diplomats during recent fighting at Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan, and expresses its condolences to the bereaved families and to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The European Union condemns these inhuman acts and the violation of the Vienna diplomatic and consular conventions. The European Union calls for an urgent investigation into these crimes and a consequent indictment of those responsible. The European Union calls upon the Taliban for full cooperation to ensure the release and safe return of the remaining diplomats and other Iranian nationals still missing in Afghanistan. The European Union notes the statement of the Taliban that the bodies will be returned to the Islamic Republic of Iran and that the perpetrators will be brought to justice.